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EXAMINER

PATEL, RAJNIKANT B

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2838

DATE MAILED: 09/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) The invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

(e) The invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

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3. Claims 1-6 and 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wada et al. (U.S. patent # 4,716,323).

Wada et al. disclose the claimed subject matters (figures 1-2,6 and 8-11), including a detector circuit (figure 1), an input terminal (figure 1, item VDD), a ground terminal (figure 1, item ground symbol), an output terminal (figure 1, item R), a first device (figure 1, item Q4), a second device (figure 1, item Q3), an output voltage below supply voltage (column 1, line 35-40), first and second device designed with different threshold voltage (Abstract, line 5-10), a depletion transistor device (column 1, line 25-30), a depletion NMOS device (column 1, line 55-60).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 13-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Wada et al. (U.S. patent # 4,716,323) in combination with Degoirat et al. (U.S. Patent # 6,943,592).

Wada et al. discloses claimed invention as explained in the claims 1-12, above, except the utilization of the technique for a different configuration of detector circuit with specified threshold. Degoirat et al. teaches the utilization of the similar technique for a


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different configuration of detector circuit with specified threshold (column 1, line 10-35 and column 2, line 45-70+). It would have been obvious one having an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Wada et al.'s detecting circuit by utilizing the technique taught by Degoirat et al. for the purpose of providing improved detection circuit for controlling power supply. Further Wada et al.'s circuit meets the structural limitation.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rajnikant B. Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-2082. The examiner can normally be reached on 6.30-5.00; m-f.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Sherry can be reached on 571-272-2084. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Rajnikant B Patel
Primary Examiner
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